

## REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels claims 1-12 and 22-24, without prejudice to their consideration in a continuing application. These claims are cancelled without any effect of their pendency and issuance from U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/696,130, filed October 25, 2000.

### CLOSING

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-12 and 22-24. Applicants respectfully request examination of pending claims 13-21. The undersigned welcomes a telephonic interview with the Examiner, if the Examiner believes such an interview would facilitate review of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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